

H1
SUB I.1
particulates having average particle size from about 11 to about 30 nm whose surface has been modified by an organic compound which is selected from the class consisting of vinylsilane compounds, acrylsilane compounds, epoxysilane compounds, aminosilane compounds, γ -mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane and γ -chloropropyltrimethoxysilane, exhibiting a molecular polarizability of from 2×10^{-40} to $850 \times 10^{-40} \text{ C}^2 \text{ m}^2 \text{ J}^{-1}$, wherein the organic compound particulates are composite oxide particulates composed of silica and at least one inorganic oxide other than silica, with the weight ratio of silica to at least one inorganic oxide other than silica being 3 to 500, and wherein the inorganic compound sol is stable in the presence of species selected from the group consisting of ionic components, salts and surfactants.

Add new claim 2 as follows:

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The inorganic compound sol of claim 1, wherein the inorganic compound sol is stable in the presence of ionic components.

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in the application. New claim 2 has been added. Support for the amendment of claim 1 and for new claim 2 is found on p. 2, lines 16-17 and p. 9, lines 5-14 of the specification.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for courtesies extended in the telephone conversation of April 16, 2002, in which claim amendments and the appropriate form for their submission were discussed.

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for purported anticipation by, or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for purported obviousness over, United States Patent No. 5,935,700 to Enomoto et al. ("Enomoto") in view of United States Patent No.